

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DOROTHY HUGHES

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dorothy Hughes, who died on July 26 at the age of 80. An activist in Marin County, California, for 35 years, Dorothy was a leader who cared deeply about her community and the people who live in it.

Born in Woodland, California, in 1923 on her parents' sheep ranch, she married Dr. Robert Leake with whom she had eight children. She attended Hamlin School in San Francisco, Stanford University, and, after her divorce, California State University in Sacramento, where she earned a master's degree. She moved to Marin in 1969.

Best known for her work on behalf of mental health programs, Dorothy was director of the Marin Association for Mental Health for two decades and was instrumental in the development of a mental health community care system. She also had a passion for children and youth, peace, human rights, and a goal of creating a caring world. She was a founder of, or active in, Community Action Marin, Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center, Marin Suicide Prevention Center, Buckelew Houses, Marin Family Action, Isoji, the Marin Peace and Justice Coalition, and the Campaign for a Healthier Community for Children.

Dorothy advocated both behind the scenes through lobbying and through community organizing. She was tireless in promoting the causes that will make our world a better place for all people, inspiring others with her conviction and forcefulness as well as her warmth. Her goal was nothing less than "a world that works for all of us."

When inducted into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame in 1991, Dorothy stated that it was her dream that one day there would be a progressive national policy on children and families. That is the same dream that inspires me to introduce legislation addressing the well-being of our nation's family and children . . . knowing that our future depends on them.

Dorothy is survived by her eight children, 17 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren, as well as her sister and her niece. She was very devoted to her family and had moved to Sacramento last November to be near them.

Mr. Speaker, Dorothy Hughes liked to call herself "an old radical," and I can think of no higher tribute. She was a radical in the best sense, one who fought for all those in society who can't fight for themselves and who believed that creating a better world through our children was both necessary and possible. I join the many people who will miss Dorothy Hughes' friendship and bright spirit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was absent attending to a previously scheduled commitment and missed the votes on Roll Call Number 490, on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 814, the Rule for S. 878, the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act; Roll Call Number 491, on H. Res. 814, the Rule for S. 878, the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act; Roll Call Number 492, on the Simpson Amendment to S. 878; Roll Call Number 493, on a Motion to Recommit S. 878 with Instructions; Roll Call Number 494, on Passage of H.R. 163, the Universal National Service Act; Roll Call Number 495, on Passage of H.R. 2929, the Safeguard Against Privacy Invasions Act; and Roll Call Number 496 on H.R. 5011, on Passage of the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on Roll Call Number 490, "Yea" on Roll Call Number 491; "Yea" on Roll Call Number 492, "Nay" on Roll Call Number 493; "Nay" on Roll Call Number 494; "Yea" on Roll Call Number 495; and "Yea" on Roll Call Number 496.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BETTER FUTURE FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Better Future for American Families Act. This legislation will help increase access for low- and moderate-income American families to private retirement investments. Families are struggling to make ends meet and this tax credit will give them an extra incentive to invest in their future.

Since Social Security was created in 1934, the model for retirement savings has been a three-legged stool. The three legs of that stool are: Social Security benefits, private pensions, and personal savings and investment. Without one of those legs, the stool wobbles. As Reinhard A. Hohaus, an early private-sector authority on Social Security, explained, "Each (leg) has its own function to perform and need not, and should not, be competitive with the others. When soundly conceived, each class of insurance can perform its role better because of the other two classes." Unfortunately, some are advocating for a significant weakening of Social Security by taking funds away from this leg of the stool by allowing workers to invest some of their Social Security taxes in

personal accounts. Instead of weakening Social Security, I propose that we strengthen incentives for all Americans to invest in their retirement.

For years, Americans worked their entire careers with one company and could rely on a generous pension coupled with Social Security benefits to provide for a comfortable retirement. This is no longer the case. Workers change jobs more often, pensions have become less reliable in this world of Enron accounting, and the Social Security trust fund will be strained by the retirement of the baby boomers. In this environment, workers should be investing in individual retirement accounts, but due to rising costs in housing, health care, and other necessities, many families are no longer able to save for the future. While Congress has passed laws to create IRAs and 401(k) plans to encourage investment, more than 90 percent of the tax benefits the federal government offers to help families save go to households earning more than \$50,000. We need to broaden these incentives to include all Americans, especially those whose struggle to cope with the costs of living here and now are causing them to ignore their future financial security.

One of the most sensible tax credits enacted by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 was the Saver's Credit, which offered low- and moderate-income workers up to a dollar-for-dollar credit for contributions to an individual retirement account or a qualified employer-sponsored plan. The credit phases out rapidly as income rises, so this is truly a tax break for middle class Americans. Unfortunately, this tax credit is scheduled to expire in 2006. Even worse, as the Republican majority tries to extend every other tax cut from 2001, to the benefit of the wealthiest, this expiring tax credit for middle class Americans is being ignored.

My legislation would make the Saver's Credit permanent and would significantly expand the program to give help to millions by increasing benefits for families earning less than \$50,000. Additionally, although 57 million taxpayers are eligible for the maximum credit on paper, 80 percent of them cannot actually benefit because they do not have income tax liability. These families need as much help as anyone and my legislation would make them eligible for the Saver's Credit by making it a refundable tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this tax credit is the most fiscally responsible avenue for Congress to encourage personal savings and ensure that American families have financial security during their retirement years. Stripping money from Social Security only shifts the wobbling leg of the stool. This legislation would strengthen all legs and provide a solid foundation for retirement for all Americans. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.